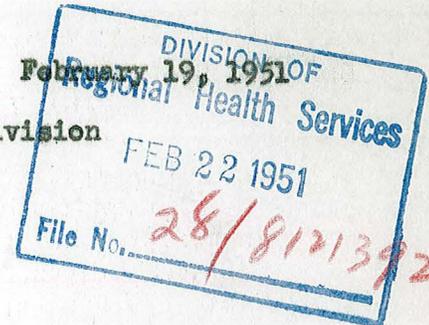


Director of Health Education

Dr. D.G. McKerracher, Director, Psychiatric Services Division

N.F.B. Film: FEELINGS OF DEPRESSION



This picture was presented by me personally at the university to about 120 students of the College of Education, with a few senior students of the School of Nursing and some students working on their master's degrees in arts. My introduction was very limited so as not to prejudice the students in any way. Immediately after the screening I conducted a poll. The meeting was unanimously of the opinion that the film was a useful educational medium, that it should be shown to lay audiences as well as professional and semi-professional people, and finally, with two dissenting votes, the group considered the film suitable to be shown to lay groups even if no person versed in mental-health principles or having professional background was available.

Previously, the film was screened for a group of 30 parents at the Regina Airport. There was a three-minute introduction to the wide subject of producing the mental-mechanism films and their purposes.

Immediately after the screening, without discussion, the audience was asked to complete forms indicating reactions and opinions. The forms indicated no emotional reaction different from that of run-of-the-mill educational pictures. There was general approval of its educational message. With this audience we did not press for any opinion on its suitability with or without qualified discussion leadership. Most of the parents seemed satisfied with the picture as it was shown and did not appear to be confused or to have unanswered questions bothering them. One woman thought that the picture would have been more helpful if the actual psychiatric techniques by which a depressed person might be assisted - a depressed person such as the one in the picture - were shown. She thought a commentator or discussion leader would be helpful. This woman said she had studied mental health and also that she had at one time been a patient.

There was also a screening for internes at the Regina Grey Nuns Hospital. The consensus of the internes was that it was a useful picture for lay education when used with qualified leadership. I am sometimes inclined to think that professional persons are not as familiar with public reactions and response, or with public thought, as they might be, and that their criticism, as in this case, may not be altogether objective.

My own feeling is that in a year or so this picture will be accepted by everyone in the way the others have been. In the meantime the National Film Board has circulated it in rural centres irrespective of whether qualified leadership is available, although some of the groups using the film doubtless have many intelligent leaders.

cont'd...

We have bought two prints of FEELINGS OF DEPRESSION which are on our restricted list. We should now like to know whether you want further evaluations, and whether you consider that the prints may now be loaned out to community groups such as Home and School Associations, senior high-school grades (psychology, home economics, and family relationships courses). Or do you wish our prints withheld from the public unless groups bring in or have leaders approved by us?

Christian Smith,
Director of
Health Education

CS:AK

c.c. Dr. Hershey ✓

P.S. Attached is a detailed analysis of the questionnaires completed by lay groups at the Airport Huts